

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 1/22/09
HB 2

Good morning Madam Chair and members of the committee.

My name is Barclay Nickel, I live in Missoula and I work for Opportunity Resources Inc. on the Construction Site Clean Up Crew. I work with about 5 other people on the crew and we have a supervisor with us all the time to make sure we have work, to provide transportation for us with our truck and trailer, and to make sure the job is completed to our customers satisfaction.

I am here today because I am number 16 on the Extended Employment waiting list. I know that some people have been on the waiting list for 5 years. I currently work only 3 days a week on this crew. My mother and I have to private pay for my services because there is not enough funding at this time to provide services for me.

I would like to work more but can not afford to private pay anymore.

If you were to support more funding for the Extended Employment program, this would allow me to work more hours and make more money and maybe even have my own job in the community. Extended Employment would help me with a job coach when I needed one and would help me to keep my job. If I worked more, I would be less likely to rely on other programs and would be more independent.

Someday I would like to buy my own house and if I worked more often I would have a better chance of having enough money to buy my own house.

I want to thank every one of you for your dedication to the state of Montana and I am confident you will do everything you can to help me and the other 171 people that are on the statewide Extended Employment Waiting list.